

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: May 31, 2001

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on May 25, 2001

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: David A. Ullrich
Acting Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Removal Action Completed, Standard Paint Company, Detroit, Michigan

At the end of May 2001, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), Emergency Response Branch, completed a time-critical removal action at the Standard Paint Company in Detroit, Michigan. On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Kurt Grunert, with the help of U.S. EPA Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) II contractors and U.S. EPA Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractors, finished the 9-month removal which involved abandoned paint waste. Approximately 2,500 fifty-five gallon drums, 50,000 small containers, 1,000 bags of hazardous waste containing benzene, chromium, lead, methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), and various industrial solvents were disposed of as part of the removal action. In addition, approximately 20 aboveground storage tanks and 15 underground storage tanks were investigated and hazardous contents removed.

Contact: Kurt Grunert (734-692-7684)

Removal Action Completed, Norwood Radiator Site, Norwood, Ohio

On May 21, 2001, the U.S. EPA removal action was completed at the Norwood Radiator Site in Norwood, Ohio. The removal action,

initiated on April 20, 2001, included the removal of lead-contaminated soil from three adjacent residential areas. Initial lead contamination levels were as high as 107,000 parts per million (ppm) due to 25 years of dumping lead sludge from a radiator repair shop. During the removal action, approximately 450 cubic yards of lead-contaminated soil was excavated and transported off site for treatment and disposal.

Contact: Steve Renninger (513-569-7539)

Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) Cleanup Completed, Letts Drop Forge, Detroit, Michigan

The U.S. EPA, Emergency Response Branch, finished oversight of a PRP-lead cleanup of a polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB)-contaminated facility in Detroit, Michigan. The U.S. EPA initially responded to the abandoned facility when four large PCB transformers were tipped over by trespassers. Contents of the transformers contained high concentrations of Aroclors 1260 and 1254. PCB oil from the transformers spilled across the facility, onto West Jefferson Avenue, and into the City of Detroit's storm water sewer. U.S. EPA and the owner of Letts Industries, Inc., signed an Administrative Order by Consent (AOC) to clean up the abandoned facility and the City of Detroit's street and adjacent sewer system. All PCB-contaminated materials and soils were removed and disposed of as part of the AOC. The City of Detroit's storm water sewer system was also cleaned and tested. All other hazardous materials discovered throughout the facility were also disposed of as part of the AOC. Letts Industries plans to demolish the building in the near future and hopefully have it redeveloped. The site is located adjacent to the Detroit River near the bridge to Canada.

Contact: Kurt Grunert (734-692-7684)

Removal Action Started, Maria's Polishing and Plating Company, Detroit, Michigan

On May 6, 2001, the U.S. EPA, Emergency Response Branch, began a time-critical removal action at an abandoned metal plating facility. On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Kurt Grunert is currently working with U.S. EPA contractors to cleanup thousands of gallons of chromic acid left for nearly 6 years at the former chrome and nickel plating facility. During the assessment, U.S. EPA documented chromic acid spilled throughout the property. Approximately 50 drums and small containers were left scattered across the unrestricted property (outside) containing various

acids ranging in pH from 0 to 1.5 standard units. The facility also contains 25 large plating vats filled with chromic, sulfuric, and nitric acid. During the first phase of the removal action, hexavalent chrome contamination was detected in soils throughout the property and bricks of the building. The City of Detroit's Fire Department and Hazmat Team was invited to the site as part of the site's emergency contingency plan.

Contact: Kurt Grunert (734-692-7684)

Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) Removal Begins, ChemCentral/Farr Street, Detroit, Michigan

On May 21, 2001, the U.S. EPA, Emergency Response Branch, began oversight at the ChemCentral/Farr Street property in Detroit, Michigan. On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Kurt Grunert conducted a site assessment of the property, following the completion of the Reclamation Oil Company Removal Site nearly a year ago. During the 1930's, ChemCentral owned and operated solvent manufacturing and distribution facilities at both the Reclamation Oil Company Removal Site and the Farr Street Site, located directly across the street. After a couple of months of negotiations, U.S. EPA and ChemCentral signed an Administrative Order by Consent (AOC) to remove the 40 underground storage tanks and their hazardous contents from the property. Their actions will also include removal of solvent-contaminated soils and investigation of any impacts to surface waters. Because the nearest neighbors are only feet from the upcoming excavation, an extensive air monitoring and sampling program is to be implemented to protect the community from harmful vapors. The removal is scheduled to take 90 days.

Contact: Kurt Grunert (734-692-7684)

Complaint Filed, Indianapolis Water Company, Inc. (#7), Indianapolis, Indiana

On May 23, 2001, U.S. EPA, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention, issued an Administrative Complaint against the Indianapolis Water Company, Indianapolis, Indiana, for failing to immediately notify the National Response Center (NRC) of a release of 5,400 pounds of sodium hypochlorite on October 20, 1999, at the TW Moses Water Treatment Plant in Indianapolis. Sodium hypochlorite is a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) hazardous substance with a reportable quantity of 100 pounds. This release was 54 times the reportable quantity. Indianapolis

Water Company notified the NRC 6 hours and 26 minutes after knowledge of the release. The releases occurred when an employee inadvertently left the sodium hypochlorite pump running prior to leaving for the night. In addition, the piping to carry the sodium hypochlorite back to the supply tanks was installed improperly, allowing the sodium hypochlorite to spill out an opening on the tanks instead of returning to the supply tanks. The sodium hypochlorite filled the concrete containment area and spilled onto the floor and out two doors. U.S. EPA has assessed a \$20,626 penalty. Indianapolis Water Company, has 30 days to respond to the complaint.

Contact: Ruth McNamara (312-353-3193)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Update (U.S. EPA Concurrence), Ohio Voluntary Action Plan Memorandum of Agreement

In May 2001, after just over a year of negotiations, final U.S. EPA concurrence was given to the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's (Ohio EPA's) Voluntary Action Program (VAP). The negotiations involved various stakeholder meetings, public forums, and public access to the document for comment via Ohio EPA's web site. The MOA, which creates a second track in the State's voluntary cleanup program, establishes increased levels of public involvement and higher levels of State oversight on sites enrolled in the VAP. The Agencies are expected to execute the document in June 2001 at a signing ceremony in Columbus, Ohio.

Contact: Joe Dufficy (312-886-1960)

Brownfields Supplemental Environmental Project, Alma, Michigan

On March 27, 2001, the consent decree for TPI Petroleum, Inc., was approved, settling the U.S. EPA multimedia enforcement case against the now closed petroleum refinery in Alma, Michigan. As part of the settlement, a \$900,000 supplemental environmental project (SEP) will be performed along the City of Alma's river front, adjacent to its central business district. The Alma Brownfields SEP is part of a larger settlement which includes \$9 million for sediment remediation in Horse Creek and Pine River, and a \$4 million civil penalty. Region 5 Brownfields will cooperate with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) and the City of Alma in its oversight of the brownfields

SEP activities.

Contact: Keary Cragan (312/353-5669)

Groundbreaking Ceremony, Jackson County Brownfields Redevelopment Authority Brownfield Pilot, Jackson, Michigan

On April 10, 2001, a groundbreaking ceremony was held in Jackson, Michigan, at the location of the new corporate headquarters for Consumers Energy. A significant portion of the environmental assessment costs were funded by the Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot Grant awarded to the County of Jackson in 1999. In addition to the approximately \$65,000 expended through the grant, Region 5 was able to provide analytical support for the Phase II Environmental Assessment through the Contract Laboratory Program. The Consumers Energy Campus will occupy a 10-acre parcel in downtown Jackson and is the cornerstone of a broader effort to revitalize the central business district. Total investment in the project is estimated at \$110 million (\$70 million by Consumers Energy and \$40 million in public funds). The old U.S. Post Office in the heart of the 10-acre parcel is protected as a national historic site and will be renovated and restored to serve as the formal entry to the corporate headquarters.

Contact: Mike Gifford (312-886-7257)

Brownfields Grant Kickoff Meeting, Mansfield, Ohio

On May 3, 2001, a kickoff meeting with Mansfield, Ohio, on their new Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF) grant was held in Mansfield. Guidance material was delivered and Romona Smith briefed them on requirements for the cooperative agreement. The mayor was briefed on the progress of the pilot grant and the opportunities for using the loan. A site inspection was made of ongoing sampling at the foundry site. This community seems well underway with its redevelopment grant but needed some legal advice. Peter Felitti was contacted and prepared to answer their questions.

Contact: Ross Powers (734-692-7681)

Brownfield Pilot Kickoff Meeting, Lansing, Michigan

A kickoff meeting with Lansing, Michigan, was held for its new

Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF) grant.

Contact: Ross Powers (734-692-7681)

Brownfield Kickoff Meeting, LaPorte, Indiana

On May 8, 2001, a kickoff meeting was held in the Mayor's office for the new Brownfields Assessment Pilot in LaPorte, Indiana. The Project Manager, together with Gloria Willis, Project Officer, and Deborah Orr, Region 5 Brownfields Coordinator, met with the Mayor, City Planner and City Attorney. A tour of the pilot properties was conducted, as well as general discussion of the cooperative agreement process.

Contact: Diane Spencer (312-886-5867)

Brownfields Pilot Meeting, Columbus, Ohio

On May 23-24, 2001, Ross Powers met with Columbus Urban Growth and Columbus Brownfields Task Force Members to reactivate the Pilot and plan second phase work at targeted projects. One site of particular interest is owned by a developer who would like his site assessed under the grant. The grantee is trying to figure out how to do this and get reimbursed by the realtor. Another issue with this site is how to do this under the petroleum exclusion, considering its former use for petroleum oil storage and edible oil storage.

Contact: Ross Powers (734-692-7681)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Tribal First Responder Awareness Level/Eight Hour Refresher Training, Leech Lake Indian Reservation, Minnesota

On May 2 and 3, 2001, the Tribal First Responder Awareness Level/Eight Hour Refresher training was hosted by the Leech Lake Indian Reservation. The class was attended by 22 Tribal members, of which three were using the course as OSHA Eight Hour Annual Refresher Training. Glenn Cekus, Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), coordinated the course and along with On-Scene Coordinator Steve Faryan, Emergency Response Branch (ERB), and Karen Kirchner, Superfund Technical Assistance & Response Team (START) II contractor Roy F. Weston, helped provide course instruction. All participants successfully completed the training and received course completion

certificates. This was the third time that the Leech Lake Reservation has hosted this course.

Contact: Glenn Cekus (312-353-6449)

Superfund Field Trip for Administrative Staff, Northwest Indiana

On May 23, 2001, the Superfund Division organized a field trip to Northwest Indiana for its administrative and support staff. After a brief orientation of the fifth floor's new Emergency Operations Center (EOC), 15 support folks and three tour guides boarded mini-vans at about 9:45 am and left for Northwest Indiana. Despite on and off rain during the day, the tour group visited a number of remedial and removal sites in Gary, Hammond, and East Chicago. These sites included the H&H Landfill ("fluff" fire); the MIDCO I and MIDCO II sites; Ninth Avenue Dump; House's Junk Yard; the Gary Lagoon site; the Conservation Chemical site, and the Industrial Highway Oil Spill site. In addition, the group made a short stop at the new Hammond Golf Course (for children) which is a Brownfield type redevelopment project on a former slag dump (Barstow property). Due to rain the tour was cut a little short, and folks were back in the office at about 3:00 pm. Feedback on the trip has been very positive. The trip provided office staff with a much better perspective of how their individual efforts impact and support the cleanup of hazardous waste sites.

Division staff involved with organizing and conducting the field trip include Bill Simes, Joe Kawecky, Bill Messenger, and Tom Geishecker.

Contact: Tom Geishecker (312-886-0755)

Presentation, Berkshire Middle School, Birmingham, Michigan

On May 22, 2001, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC), Kurt Grunert, conducted a 2-hour presentation on the U.S. EPA's Emergency Response Branch. The presentation began with a short discussion on what U.S. EPA does, the Superfund program, and the different types of hazardous wastes/materials. The presentation also included a series of experiments showing the students the different characteristics of hazardous wastes. A model of an oil slick with sorbent boom was also demonstrated. In addition, a mock emergency response ("ER") was set up in a room to give the students an opportunity to develop an incident command system, work with air monitoring equipment, and wear personal protection equipment. A truck accident that involved acid and cyanide was

used. Feedback from the school district and students indicated the presentation was well-received and that they would like us to return next year.

Contact: Kurt Grunert (734-692-7684)

Acting Regional Administrator's Visit, Grosse Ile, Michigan

On May 22, 2001, all hands in Grosse Ile met with David Ullrich, Acting Regional Administrator, in the Emergency Operations Center and viewed a television clip of a recent response to a fish kill in a lower Detroit River tributary. This is a highly sensitive issue for the Region, as Mr. Ullrich was attending a Great Lakes-Detroit River meeting, including a boat tour of the upper river. Southeast Michigan Initiative (SEMI) was also looking into a new initiative with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that this incident typifies. Ross Powers has volunteered to work with SEMI on the project. Mr. Ullrich listened to staff issues and agreed to look into concerns about overtime, computer services, and lack of upper management visits with the troops.

Contact: Ross Powers (734-692-7681)

Presentation, Northern Ohio Chapter, Akron, Ohio

On May 23, 2001, Alex Tzallas attended and spoke at the Air & Waste Management's Association, Northern Ohio Chapter, Spring Technical Seminar. The Seminar was held at the University of Akron, Martin Center, Akron, Ohio. The Seminar focused on Integrated Contingency Plans (ICP). Alex Tzallas discussed ICP guidance, preparation, and benefits/limitations; Federal Response Plan (FRP) requirements, preparation, review process, 5 year review process, plan deficiencies, inspections, Agency expectations, and enforcement; and, Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SPCC) regulations, meeting SPCC requirements in an ICP, and the new proposed SPCC regulation changes.

There were 70 attendees that were mostly industry individuals (including terminal owners/operators), consultants, and State Agency personnel. Attendees' response was extremely positive, and they found the seminar and the informational handouts informative and helpful for meeting Oil Pollution Act regulations.

Contact: Alexander Tzallas (312-886-0622)

Mississippi River Corridor Brownfields Initiative, St. Louis,

Missouri, and East St. Louis, Illinois

On May 23, 2001, the Cities of St. Louis, Missouri, and East St. Louis, Illinois, held a kickoff event for the National Brownfields Showcase Initiative. The event included presentations by key Federal, State and local officials to unveil the Showcase Communities focus areas and announce special funding. A bi-city mayoral proclamation to address the barriers to Brownfields redevelopment was also signed. The event was concluded with tours of the brownfields redevelopment areas on both sides of the river.

Contacts: Keary Cragan (312-353-5669)
Noemi Emeric (312-886-0995)

Joint Agency Brownfields Meetings, Illinois

U.S. EPA Region 5, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA), and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) brownfields representatives have completed a series of four joint agency meetings with communities in Illinois. The cities of East Peoria, Pekin, and Lincolnshire, and Will County are each seeking State and Federal assistance with redevelopment plans in their communities. These joint agency meetings provide the Illinois communities focused sessions to address each agency's array of brownfields financial and technical assistance programs.

Contact: Keary Cragan (312-353-5669)

Mahoning River Corridor Planning Meeting Held, Youngstown, Ohio

On May 2, 2001, the Mahoning River Corridor of Opportunity (Corridor) planning meeting was conducted. The Corridor is part of the Youngstown, Ohio, Brownfields Pilot. The committee of approximately 40 members, meets on a routine basis to discuss future development within the Corridor. Attendees include mayors and councilmen from Youngstown, Struthers, and Campbell, Congressional staff, local development personnel, State staff members, Youngstown University personnel, environmental consultants, and numerous other participants. Discussions this month focused on progress in completing/obtaining the legal description for property where a to-be-constructed bridge will touch down. Construction of the bridge is key in providing access to and future redevelopment of the Corridor. A Phase I has been completed on this portion, as well as other parcels, within the Corridor. A Phase II work plan will be prepared in

June 2001 to focus on the bridge landing area. Data obtained as part of the Phase II will be included in a grant application to the Economic Development Administration in order to secure funding for construction of the bridge. Committee members anticipate obtaining grant approval by December 2001.

Contact: Diane Spencer (312-886-5867)

Community Advisory Group Meeting, DePue, Illinois

On May 23, 2001, the DePue Community Advisory Group (CAG) met to discuss the DePue non-time-critical removal action, phase I results. Steve Davis, Illinois Department Of Natural Resources, led the discussion. Some of the topics covered were: Investigation of Metal Distribution and Sedimentation Patterns in Lake DePue and Turner Lake; Assessment of the DePue Wildlife Management Area; Concentrations of Selected Elements in Animal and Plant Tissues, Dredged Spoils Disposal Area, DePue Waste Management Area; and, Phosphate Rock: Can It Be Used to Remediate the Soil in the DePue Dike Sediment Disposal Area.

Rick Lang, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, discussed the progress of the proposed plan for the South Ditch project followed by questions from the CAG. It was also announced that the Public Hearing on this project will take place on July 18, 2001.

Contact: Oliver Warnsley (312-886-0442)

Brownfields Meeting, Flint, Michigan

On May 9, 2001, Ross Powers attended the Flint Brownfields Action Team meeting in Flint, Michigan. The City is interested in assessing the contamination suspected to be leaching off the General Motors Buick City site (now being demolished) onto City property adjacent to the Flint River. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has recently turned down the City's application for a site assessment grant, suggesting that the City look into the U.S. EPA pilot and Contract Laboratory Program (CLP) support. That option is being considered by the City. In addition, they are considering sending their development department staff to the Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF) Site Manager training when it becomes available to increase their capability to handle a BCRLF loan.

Contact: Ross Powers (734-692-7681)

South Washington Avenue Improvement Meeting, Saginaw, Michigan

On May 21, 2001, Mike Gifford participated in a meeting of the South Washington Avenue Improvement Committee in Saginaw, Michigan. The committee represents a unique public-private partnership and includes the City of Saginaw; Neighborhood of Renewal Services of Saginaw, Inc., a local non-profit agency; and, a number of local businesses and individuals. The committee was formed in 1998 with a redevelopment vision of reducing blighted residential, commercial, and industrial properties along South Washington Avenue. Local businesses recognized that each has a vested interest in revitalizing the areas in which they are located. The committee uses a privately supported loan pool and corporate contributions for property acquisition and assembly. By partnering with local social agencies and public government, additional resources are made available to support the community-wide effort. The City of Saginaw contributes in-kind services through the demolition of dilapidated buildings and Neighborhood Renewal Services facilitates the property transactions. Added funding comes from U.S. EPA's Brownfield Assessment Grant to the City, community development block grants, and the Clean Michigan Initiative. Maintenance of vacant parcels (e.g., cutting grass and picking up litter) is provided by inmates from several local correctional facilities. This is a "roll up your sleeves and do what it takes" committee that is dedicated to improving the quality of life and demonstrates what commitment at the local level can accomplish. The most significant accomplishment to date is the acquisition of a \$980,000 grant from the State that will lead to the construction of a 60,000 square foot medical facility within the South Washington Street corridor.

Contact: Mike Gifford (312-886-7257)

Counterterrorism Meeting, Lake County, Indiana

On May 21, 2001, Civil Investigator Joseph Kawecki, serving as chairman of the Lake County, Indiana, Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Committee on Terrorism, hosted a meeting to discuss continued planning for addressing a weapon of mass destruction (WMD) incident in Lake County. In attendance were representatives of 4 County hospitals, County emergency management and other interested parties. Mr. Kawecki advised the participants that he had previously met with Carl Andrianopoli, Regional Emergency Coordinator, Office of Emergency Preparedness, U.S. Department of Public Health, and On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Len Zintak, U.S. EPA Region 5 Coordinator for Counterterrorism, and discussed plans for training in chemical and bio-terrorism

response planning to be presented to the medical and responder community in October 2001. The LEPC approved funding for Mr. Kawecki and C. Adams RN (Registered Nurse), to attend the National Environmental Health Associations Conference on bio-terrorism planning and preparedness in Atlanta in June 2001. Mr. Andrianopoli stated that, while Lake County had not been included in the initial 120 city training or received funding, the Lake County LEPC was way ahead of other County's in planning for WMD incidents and could be a pilot project for the Office of Emergency Preparedness. He stated he would work with the LEPC to help it develop its emergency plan and develop a cache of medical supplies for the County. At the next meeting in June Captain Jane Odem of the U.S. Department of Public Health will address the Committee on issues of hospital planning for WMD incidents and support available from the U.S. Department of Public Health.

Contact: Joe Kawecki (312-886-7236)

Oil Initiative Discussions, Detroit, Michigan

The Southeast Michigan Initiative (SEMI)/Detroit River Oil Initiative discussions continued. Ross Powers agreed to help with Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SPCC) inspections of bulk oil facilities, and outreach to junk yards and scrap metal dealers. Comment on the white paper were supplied. A list of target facilities will be reviewed for recent involvement by U.S. EPA or the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ).

Contact: Ross Powers (734-692-7681)

cc: Barry Breen (OECA)
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